

The U of M in the News

POOR HEALTH NO MORE

Feb. 11, 2013

Macleans

On Feb. 4, *Macleans* magazine hosted "Health Care in Canada: Poor Health No More," a town hall discussion at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. The conversation on the effect of social disparities on health will continue in the coming months in the magazine but leading up to the Winnipeg event the magazine spoke with Barry Lavallee, a family doctor and the director of the Centre for Aboriginal Health Education at the U of M. Lavallee told *Macleans* he favours a separate Aboriginal health care system that values Indigenous experience and traditional healing. He's the medical adviser on one such successful program, the nurse-run diabetes integration project, which serves 19 Manitoba communities, focusing on prevention, clinical assessment and intervention. Many of the staff are Aboriginal, all are non-judgmental and "incredibly literate" about First Nations culture, he says. The result is a significant drop in diabetes complications. Lavallee calls social determinants a "bulls--t" term that masks uglier words like racism, colonialism, classism, "all those -isms," he said. It is from that frustration that the Idle No More movement has developed, he said. The demands for an equitable share of resources, safety for women, better housing and education are only part of the answer, he says. "If you don't address racism in the background, perpetuated by policy, then we're still not going to achieve true [health] equity."

SOON YOU WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO DROWN YOUR SORROWS IN IT

Feb. 11, 2013

Winnipeg Free Press, Winnipeg sun

Greg McCullough, a research associate in the U of M's Centre for Earth Observation Science, spoke to the public at a forum recently held at River Heights Community Centre. The topic of discussion: growing water pollution woes in Manitoba and the eroding federal protection of the environment that could leave irreparable damage for future generations to face. McCullough studies satellite photos of the algae growth on lake Winnipeg. He told the public that nutrients polluting Manitoba's big lakes from phosphate-laden drainage are resulting in algal blooms overtaking the bodies of water. Phosphorus from Winnipeg and flooding and runoff from North Dakota and Minnesota are taking a toll, he said.

HOLY QUIT! THE POPE RETIRES

Feb. 12, 2013

Metro News, CJOB, CBC, CTV

Pope Benedict XVI recently said he lacked the strength to fulfill his duties and on Feb. 28 will become the first pontiff in nearly 600 years to resign. A conclave will select God's new Representative on Earth in March. Sharing his thoughts with media on the historic situation was Christopher Adams, rector at St. Paul's College. Like many, he was surprised by the announcement. "Looking back on it, I should not have been," he says, adding that Pope Benedict was already 78 when he was chosen to lead the Church in 2005. "Unlike Pope John Paul II, Bishop Ratzinger was quite old when he was elected, he was an elderly man and he was elected as an elderly man." Adams said he's looking forward to seeing who is elected during the conclave, since that will signal which direction the Church is headed. "There is no heir apparent," he says. "Now we wonder; will it be a Latin American or a Filipino (pope)... I think we might be in for a surprise." Adams would not comment on whom he thinks successors could be. "The Church is grappling with many modern issues, like women (ordained) in the Church, so it'll be interesting to see where it goes," he says.

HEADLINES:

"Convicting cops tough: expert" Feb. 12, 2013, *Winnipeg Free Press*, story about a jury's acquittal of two police officers sought comment from U of M law prof. Bruce MacFarlane who said securing a jury conviction against a police officer for an on-the-job incident is extremely difficult not only in Canada, but in courts around the world. It's because the public has a high level of trust in police officers, he says. That means jurors are more willing to give police the benefit of the doubt if something goes wrong in the execution of their duties, he explains.

– COMPILED BY SEAN MOORE



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

EMBRACING CHANGE AS WE PURSUE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

While we pursue a culture of continuous improvement, the process of change can be difficult. We have asked much of you, our faculty and staff, and we appreciate the patience and effort you have shown; the rewards have already been great.

Together we reached some major milestones last year, including a record enrolment of 29,000 students, donor gifts totalling \$26 million, and nearly \$160 million in sponsored research income. Continued work by many ensures that the provincial government, as our largest funder, provides the resources necessary to achieve our vital mandate.

None of this would have been possible without support and input from our university community.

Our university serves as a workplace for 8,800 staff members, many of whom have been working within the Outstanding Workplace Initiative to raise our standards ever higher. In our first employee experience survey, our staff indicated how well we are doing. Your feedback led to the University of Manitoba being recognized as a top employer last year by Manitoba's Top 25 Employers, as 76 per cent of employees who participated in our survey said this is a great place to work. We recognize that there is still a long road ahead and that we must continue to do better in order to attract and keep the high-quality employees our university needs in order to serve our province well.

We also recognize the need to provide optimal and inspiring spaces for learning and working. To that end, nearly \$614 million in infrastructure projects has been invested since 2008-09. Highlights include the Elizabeth Dafoe and Neil John Maclean libraries, new and redeveloped lab space at the Biological Sciences and Buller buildings, Pembina Hall residence and ARTlab. We are poised to invest another \$250 million in capital and technology over the next two years. We are in a period of development and growth, and are committed to creating campuses that best serve and reflect all of us and the important work we do.

As we fulfill our important mandate for this province, we keep in mind always that students are the lifeblood of this university. As a result, student involvement in the university's work is wide-ranging. The presidents of the University of Manitoba Students' Union and the University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association serve on the University's Senate and Board of Governors. Students are directly involved in processes as diverse as faculty committees, senior leadership hiring, and innovative new vehicles for encouraging student input into university affairs, such as the student experience committee. We truly value student views and ideas on a variety of issues, including information technology, housing, library hours, daycare and academic awards. This engagement and input from students ensure that decisions made about our university reflect their needs and desires.

I often refer to the notion that working at a university is so fulfilling because both the cause and the company are great. Together we can continue to transform our campus and provide transformational experiences for our faculty, staff and students as well as the larger community.

David

Please join the President's Town Hall on March 1 at 10 a.m. in the Manitoba Room in University Centre (to be broadcast to Bannatyne Campus).

Link to President Barnard's complete message from Feb. 12, 2013, from the Special Dates/Updates box at umanitoba.ca

For additional information regarding the university's commitments around inclusion, space, change and our story, visit: umanitoba.ca/admin/president/facts_figures.html.

THE BULLETIN is the newspaper of record for the University of Manitoba. It is published by the marketing communications office every second Thursday from September to December and monthly in December, Jan., Feb., June, July and August.

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The Bulletin is printed on paper that includes recycled content.

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SUBMISSIONS

The Bulletin welcomes submissions from members of the university community letters to the editor, columns, news briefs and story and photo suggestions.

EVENTS

The Bulletin publishes notifications of events taking place at the University of Manitoba or events that are of particular interest to the university community. There is no charge for running notices in the events column.

Send events notices to bulletin@umanitoba.ca

PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

Issue Date: Mar. 7, 2013
Copy/advertising deadline: Feb. 27, 2013
Issue Date: March 21, 2013
Copy/advertising deadline: Mar. 13, 2013

UNDELIVERABLE COPIES

Return with Canadian addresses to: The University of Manitoba Bulletin 137 Education Building, University of Manitoba Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2 Phone 204-474 8111 Fax 204-474 7631

ADVERTISING

The Bulletin welcomes advertising from within the university community as well as from the larger Winnipeg community. The publication is delivered directly to all University of Manitoba faculty and staff, and is additionally mailed to individual officials in provincial and federal government and at other universities and, upon request, to individuals formerly associated with or part of the university community.

For more information, contact the editor. Publication schedule and advertising rates online at umanitoba.ca/bulletin/adrates

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